[*Translation*]

Documents of Indian History

3414. DR. LAL BAHADUR RAWAL: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether several valuable original documents of Indian history are in possession of various foreign Governments;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the efforts made by the Government to bring back these documents and the present position in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI ARJUN SINGH): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) These documents relate to archival material on different periods of the association of foreign Governments with India. The countries where records exist include the UK, France, Portugal, the Netherlands the Commonwealth of the Independent States, Germany, Spain, Denmark and Itlay.

(c) Efforts made through diplomatic channels and directly to seek the retrieval of original documents have not been successful. However microfilms of these documents have been successful. However microfilms of these documents have been procured from some countries through bilateral exchange, outright purchase and grants received from the Charles Wallace Trust Fund. 6839 microfilms have been acquired so far by the National Archives of India.

Repair of Railway Bridges in Bihar

3415. SHRI RAM TAHAL CHOUDHARY: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the number and locations of old railway bridges identified for renovation in zonal railways covering Bihar;

(b) the details regarding repair work undertaken thereon during last two years;

(c) the details of the report submitted by the Committee constituted to study the old bridges; and

(c) the extent to which its recommendations have been implemented?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MALLIKARJUN): (a) 1094 nos. distributed on various sections of Eastern, North Eastern, Northeast Frontier and South Eastern Railways, to be taken up for rehabilitation in a phased manner.

(b) 106 nos. have been rehabilitated/registered/rebuilt as necessary.

(c) and (d). The Committee, in its report, identified the types of the old bridges, which need to be taken up for rehabilitation on a programmed basis and the additional inputs considered necessary for the same. The report was accepted for implementation.

Central Zoo Authority

3416. SHRI PANKAJ CHOWDHARY: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to set up a Central Zoo Authority for the development and modernisation of the zoological parks;

(b) if so, the time by which it is likely to be set up and the jurisdiction of this authority; and

(c) if not, the steps proposed to be taken